

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086521
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 086521

NODIS
WH FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO SENT ACTION SECSTATE 181418Z APR 77.

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 6437

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, US, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN ARMS REQUEST FOR "AFRICA CORPS"

1. AS I SUSPECTED WOULD BE THE CASE, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE
NOW GIVEN US A LIST OF ARMS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE US TO
PROVIDE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR AVOWED EFFORTS TO
RESIST SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. IT IS A LULU*

2. DURING MY LAST MEETING WITH FAHMY, HE RECALLED SADAT'S
DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, YOU,
SECRETARY BROWN AND CONGESSIONAL LEADERS ABOUT THE
SOVIET THREAT TO AFRICA AND GOE'S DETERMINATION TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 086521

ASSIST MODERATE AFRICAN GOVTS TO MEET THAT THREAT.
SADAT, HE RECALLED, HAD INDICATED THAT EGYPT HAS ALREADY
BEEN REQUESTED BY TANZANIA, ZAIRE AND SUDAN TO SEND
MILITARY HELP AND HAS DONE SO IN THE FORM OF WEAPONS.
FAHMY STATED SADAT AND HE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE
SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING SHOWN BY ADMINISTRATION AND
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO EGYPT'S EFFORTS IN AFRICA.

VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAD EVEN INDICATED TO HIM THAT CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY APPROVE ARMS FOR EGYPT FOR USE TO BOLSTER MODERATE REGIMES IN AFRICA. WITH THIS IN MIND, SADAT HAD INSTRUCTED FAMAHY TO PREPARE A LIST OF REQUIRED ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO ESTABLISH A "MOBILE TASK FORCE TO COPE WITH EMERGENCY SITUATION IN AFRICA." FAMAHY CALLED IT A TYPE OF "AFRICA CORPS".

3. EGYPT, FAMAHY CONTENDED, WILL PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MODERATE AFRICAN STATES WITH OR WITHOUT UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE. IF USG IS SERIOUS ABOUT SUPPORTING GOE EFFORTS TO MEET SOVIET THREAT IN AFRICA, IT CAN ASSIST GOE IN THIS ENDEAVOR BY PROVIDING THE TYPE OF EQUIPMENT REQUESTED. GOE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, AGREE TO USG SUPERVISION OF SUCH A CORPS. FAMAHY ALSO STRESSED THAT THE PRESENT LIST IS SEPARATE FROM THE EARLIER GOE REQUEST FOR ARMS FOR EGYPT'S OWN DEFENSES. AFTER HANDING ME THE LIST, HE ASKED FOR MY PERSONAL REACTION.

4. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD OF COURSE SUBMIT THE LIST AS HE HAD REQUESTED. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, I DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS MUCH CHANCE OF OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE LIST OF ARMS AND EQUIPMENT THAT HE WAS NOW REQUESTING. I DID NOT RECALL ANY DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON ABOUT AN EGYPTIAN "AFRICA CORPS," BUT SIMPLY OF SOME EGYPTIAN ARMS HAVING BEEN PROVIDED TO MODERATE AFRICAN STATES AND SADAT'S
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 086521

SUGGESTION THAT EGYPT COULD CONTINUE TO DO SO IF THE USG WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST. THE PRESENT LIST SEEMS TO GO FAR BEYOND THAT CONCEPT. I HAD TO TELL HIM AS A FRIEND THAT IT IS CERTAIN TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS THAT IT IS A BACKDOOR EFFORT TO OBTAIN ARMS FOR POSSIBLE USE AGAINST ISRAEL.

5. I ALSO RECALLED THAT BOTH SADAT AND HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST TOLD ME THAT, AFTER THE YEMENI DEBACLE, PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT ALLOW EGYPTIAN TROOPS TO BE SENT ANYWHERE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY EXCEPT THE SUDAN AND LIBYA. HE NOW SEEMED TO BE TELLING ME THAT EGYPT IS PREPARED TO SEND A MOBILE TASK FORCE TO ANYWHERE IN AFRICA. THIS SEEMED TO BE A CHANGE OF CONCEPT. FAMAHY ACKNOWLEDGED THE INCONSISTENCY, BUT NOTED THAT EGYPT HAS IN THE PAST SENT TROOPS TO HELP SETTLE THE BIAFRAN REBELLION IN NIGERIA AND TO THE CONGO. SADAT, HE OBSERVED, CONSIDERS THE SOVIET THREAT TO MODERATE REGIMES IN AFRICA SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO BE WILLING TO SEND TROOPS. HE INSISTED SUCH

AN "AFRICA CORPS" WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL EXCEPT
IN THE EVENT OF AN ISRAELI ATTACK. HE ASKED FOR AN EARLY
REACTION TO THE EGYPTIAN LIST.

6. THE LIST IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. TRANSPORT & LANDING MEANS

36 C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

72 S-61-R, CH3C CHINOCK HELICOPTERS

36 BELL 214 A2 HELICOPTERS

16 BELL COBRA ESCORT HELICOPTERS

(ALL ABOVE COMPLETE WITH NAVIGATION FACILITIES,
GROUND EQUIPMENT, ETC.)

HEAVY DROPPING PLATFORMS WITH PARACHUTES

LIGHT DROPPING CONTAINERS WITH PARACHUTES

B. RECONNAISSANCE EQUIPMENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 086521

55 RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES XR 311

22 GROUND OBSERVATION RADARS AN PP 55, RANGE 3700 M.

5 GROUND OBSERVATION RADARS AN PRS 5A, RANGE 10 KMS.

12 ELECTRONIC RADIATION DETECTORS

C. COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

10 (SETS) SSBN 400 W TRANSMITTERS

10 (SETS) SSB RECEIVERS

10 (SETS) RADIOSTATIONS VHF-UHF

100 (SETS) INDIVIDUAL RADIO DIRECTION FINDERS

20 NIGHT ASSEMBLY DEVICES FOR GUIDING TROOPS AFTER LANDING

D. ARMAMENT

200 DRAGON X 547 AT LAUNCHERS

50 TOW AT LAUNCHERS

75 REDEYE AA LAUNCHERS

15 BULCAN 30MM, AA GUNS

10 CHAPARRELS

22 HOWITZER 105MM XM 193

22 MORTARS 107MM.

30 BUSH-MASTER 20MM. AUTOMATIC GUNS

E. AMMUNITION

6 FU COMBAT AMMUNITION FOR ALL ARTY & AT WEAPONS

10 FU COMBAT AMMUNITION FOR ALL ARTY & AA WEAPONS

3 FU TRAINING AMMUNITION FOR ALL WEAPONS

F. NIGHT VISION DEVICES

ALL WEAPONS ARE REQUESTED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH
ADEQUATE NIGHT VISION DEVICES.

G. TRAINING EQUIPMENT

ALL NECESSARY TRAINING EQUIPMENT AND AIDS ARE
REQUESTED FOR ALL A/M REQUIREMENTS.

7. FAHMY DID NOT KNOW WHAT SIZE UNIT EGYPT HAS IN MIND

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PAGE 05 STATE 086521

IN CONTEMPLATED "AFRICA CORPS." BASED ON DAO'S ANALYSIS
OF LIST, IT APPEARS THAT THE EQUIPMENT COULD PROVIDE
SUPPORT FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO BRIDAGES: ONE PARATROOPER
BRIGADE AND ONE AIR MOBILE BRIGADE WICH WOULD GIVE BOTH
STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL MOBILITY TO SUCH UNITS.
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